

C. Remarks

Applicant gratefully acknowledges the courtesies extended by Examiner Rekstad during the telephone interview of February 9, 2007 with Applicant's undersigned representative.

In the office action, claims 1, 2, 5, 6 and 15-18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by "A Self-Governing Rate Buffer Control Strategy for Pseudoconstant Bit Rate Video Coding" to Chen et al. Claims 3, 4, 7-14, 19 and 20 were deemed allowable. Applicant traverses the rejections as follows.

Claim Amendments

Without admitting the propriety or necessity of doing so, but rather for the purpose of expediting prosecution of the present application, Applicant has amended independent claim 1 to include the subject matter of claim 3 indicated by the Examiner to be allowable over the references on record. In particular, claim 1 now recites a method for making a mode decision in video coding that includes:

- collecting a first portion of video data;
- labeling the first portion of video data with an optimal mode;
- identifying at least one feature of the first portion of video data corresponding to the optimal mode, wherein identifying the at least one feature includes:

- defining at least one training feature vector and its cost relating to a unit of the first portion of video data; and

- defining a training feature space containing the feature vector;

- constructing a probabilistic model based on the at least one identified feature; and

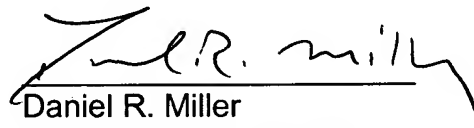
- making a mode decision for a second portion of the video data based on an application of the probabilistic model to the second portion of the video.

Claim 3 has been amended in consequence of the amendment of claim 1, and claim 4 has been amended to provide antecedent basis for the claimed "at least one feature" and to delete repetitive claim language. Independent claims 15, 16 and 18 have also been amended in a manner analogous to that of claim 1. Applicant therefore submits that, in addition to the previously allowed claims, independent claims 1, 15, 16 and 18, as well as claims 2, 5 and 6 depending from claim 1 and claim 17 depending from claim 16, are allowable over the references of record.

D. Conclusion

Applicant respectfully requests a Notice of Allowance for the pending claims in the present application. If the Examiner is of the opinion that the present application is in condition for disposition other than allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below in order that the Examiner's concerns may be expeditiously addressed.

Respectfully submitted,


Daniel R. Miller
Registration No. 52,030
Attorney for Applicant

KIRKPATRICK & LOCKHART PRESTON GATES ELLIS LLP
Henry W. Oliver Building
535 Smithfield Street
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15222

Telephone: (412) 355-6773
Facsimile: (412) 355-6501
E-mail: daniel.miller@klgates.com